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Vivasayigal Sangam that the Tanjore Tenants and Pannaiyal Protection Act should be amended. But the hon. Member is putting a question on some other subject. Let him put a separate question."

Primary Health Centres in North Arcot district.

* 112[a] *Q.*—Sri K. ARANGANATHAN: Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the number of primary health centres in North Arcot district?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Four, Sir."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" I want to know when all these centres were opened. I also want to know whether any more centres were opened during the last years."

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" They were opened about half a dozen years ago. All the four centres are situated in Tiruvannamalai taluk."

Sri K. ARANGANATHAN :—" I want to know why the Government have not opened any centres other than these four centres either in South Arcot or North Arcot district? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" These centres were opened in accordance with the suggestion of the Health Survey and Development Committee. About thirty centres were opened in the Composite State. Some of them have since been closed down. It has been found that these centres are not working satisfactorily."

Sri K. VINAYAKAM :—" Were the centres closed down due to the reason that doctors were not available to conduct those centres, for I know one instance in Chingleput where a centre had been running without a doctor for a long time and ultimately was closed? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Yes, Sir. Doctors are unwilling to go and settle down in these places even though they are paid the salary of a Civil Assistant Surgeon."

Reduction in the rate of travelling allowance of Police constables in Malabar.

* 114 *Q.*—Sri K. P. GOPALAN: Will the Hon. the Chief Minister be pleased to state—

10-10 a.m. (*a*) whether it is a fact that the Government have recently passed a Government Order reducing the rate of travelling allowance of the Police constables of Malabar from one rupee to twelve annas; and

(*b*) if so, the reasons therefor?

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" (*a*) Yes; but the order affects not only police constables, but all Government servants drawing Rs. 44 per mensem or less in the Malabar district.

[a] Postponed from the list of questions for 12th March 1954.

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"(b) Prior to 1949, this category of Government servants in the district were eligible for an enhanced daily allowance of 33⅓ per cent over the ordinary rates in respect of journeys undertaken on the mainland. In February 1949, the Government increased the ordinary rates of daily allowance in the case of these officers. In view of this increase, it was considered that the concession referred to above was not necessary and it was accordingly withdrawn."

Sri K. P. GOPALAN :—" In view of this meagre allowance, the police constables are not able to make both ends meet and will the Government be pleased to rescind this order and restore the alowance of one rupee at least? "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" I am glad the hon. Member has taken up the cause of police constables. I have already said that this affects not only police constables but all Government servants drawing Rs. 44 per mensem or less in the Malabar district. There is a long history behind it. The travelling allowance was reduced not now, but long ago, on the ground that the daily alowance had been increased. Some mistakes had been committed and they were corrected. That is the position. But the suggestion that we might increase the travelling allowance all-round for everybody will involve a large amount of extra expenditure which the Government are not in a position to bear at present. But of course there is no limit to any addition we can make to these low-paid people."

Sri S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" Does this reduction apply only to police constables in Malabar or to police constables throughout the State, and have the Government any proposal to reduce the travelling allowance of officers drawing more than Rs. 44? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" I disallow the second part of the question."

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" This reduction applies only to Malabar on account of the special rates allowed there."

Sri V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" May I bring to the notice of the Chief Minister the existence of a similar grievance in districts like South Arcot and will the Government increase the travelling allowance as early as possible? "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" As soon as we get extra money, this Government, at any rate, will be prepared to be much more liberal to all these servants and we won't wait for suggestions from hon. Members."

Sri K. PARTHASARATHY :—" How does the reduced rate in Malabar compare with the rate prevailing in the rest of the State? "

The Hon. Sri C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—" There was an increased daily allowance in that district and that is why

there was a decrease in travelling allowance. The position in other districts is not complicated by this special feature."

SRI M. NARAYANA KURUP :—"May I know why this increased allowance was allowed in Malabar and whether the reasons which induced the Government to grant this allowance have ceased to exist?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—"It was given long ago. The question of reduction in travelling allowance was not raised in this House, I think, because there was sufficient justification for the reduction. Of course, everybody wants to get a little more and as I said, we will be willing to give provided there are funds."

SRI K. MADHAVAN NAMBIAR :—"സാർ, മററു ജില്ലകളെ അപേക്ഷിച്ചു മലബാറിലെ ജീവിതച്ചെലവു വളരെയധികം വർദ്ധിച്ചിരിക്കകൊണ്ടു് കുറച്ച അലവൻസു് വീണ്ടും നികത്തിക്കൊടുക്കാൻ ഗവമ്മേണ്ടിന്നു ദയവുണ്ടാകുമോ ?"

THE HON. SRI C. RAJAGOPALACHARI :—"The ground alleged is that the cost of living is higher in Malabar. It will not be difficult for other people also to raise their cost of living and ask for more."

Quality of rice supplied to Malabar.

*115 Q.—SRI K. C. GOPALAN UNNI : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Commissioner of Civil Supplies visited Malabar in January 1954;

(*b*) whether he enquired into the complaints made on the floor of the Assembly regarding the quality of rice supplied in Malabar;

(*c*) if the answers to clauses (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative the result of the enquiry;

(*d*) whether the Government will be pleased to place a copy of his report on the table of the House; and

(*e*) the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—"(*a*) Yes.

"(*b*) Yes.

"(*c*) The Commissioner of Civil Supplies inspected the quality of the stocks of rice issued through the ration shops and in the godowns of the societies in Tellicherry and Kuttuparamba taluks and issued orders to the Collector of Malabar to arrange immediately to clean and down grade into second sort the stocks of rice which were found to be below the standard and then only issue the rice through the ration shops.

"(*d*) No special report was submitted to Government. The information given in reply to part (*c*) of the question is derived from tour notes recorded by the Commissioner of Civil Supplies.